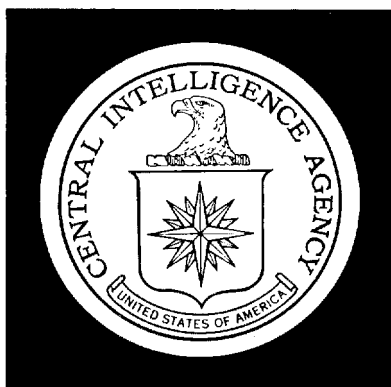


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USSR-Bolivia: Moscow, responding to an earlier Bolivian initiative, has expressed interest in bartering Soviet goods for Bolivian oil.

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Bolivia could determine the amount of oil it wished to barter. Such an offer may prove tempting to Bolivia because it lost its markets after the Ovando government seized the Bolivian Gulf Oil Company on 17 October. Bolivia's oil production now is shut down because its storage facilities are completely filled.

There is no indication how the USSR will dispose of this crude oil, which is composed almost entirely of light distillates yielding products such as gasoline and kerosene. It would not provide the variety of petroleum products needed in Cuba and other Communist countries; it is most suitable for use in the petrochemical industry.

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